

In the Claims:

Please rewrite claim 1 as follows:

1. (Thrice Amended) An optical fiber array, comprising: a holding member including a substrate having flat surfaces arranged on opposite sides of a group of sectional V-shaped housing grooves formed in said substrate for housing optical fibers on a top face, said optical fibers each having an optical fiber tip end bare portion housed in said holding member; a cover plate positioned on the substrate; and an adhesive provided directly between the substrate and the cover plate to fix the optical fibers in the housing grooves, wherein a distance between a center axis of the outermost housing groove and an end portion of the substrate is at least five times larger than the radius of the optical fibers, and a distance Y between the flat surfaces of the substrate and the cover plate is $L/6 \leq Y \leq L/2$, wherein Y is a thickness of the adhesive and L is a distance from a contact point between the housed optical fibers and the housing grooves to the cover plate.